

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 IO-10 BIB-01 SY-05 VO-03

SCA-01 PPT-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8409

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 0110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, US, UR, CSCE

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRAVEL REGULATIONS

REFS: (A) 75 MOSCOW 18425, (B) 75 MOSCOW 15286

1. AT EMBASSY NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET FOR SOVIET EMPLOYEES AND SELECTED UPDK AND MFA PERSONNEL, ALEKSANDR LPUSHINSKIY, AN ATTACHE IN MFA PROTOCOL SECTION, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SOVIET TRAVEL REGULATIONS AND CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS WERE UNDER "ACTIVE REVIEW". HE ADVISED THAT THE EMBASSY COULD EXPECT "SOON" FURTHER INFORMATION ON THEIR MODIFICATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT.

2. COMMENT. TOGETHER WITH NEW YEAR'S EVE NOTE ON JOURNALISTS' TRAVEL AND JAN. 4 MANEUVER NOTIFICATION UNDER CBM'S, THIS CONSTITUTES THIRD SMALL PIECE OF RECENT EVIDENCE THAT SOVIETS NOW HAVE THEIR DUCKS IN A ROW ON CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AND ARE MOVING OUT IN CONCRETE WAYS TO BLEACH THE IMAGE OF NON-COMPLIANCE THEY HAVE ACQUIRED IN WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION SINCE THE CONFERENCE ENDED (REFTEL A). THERE IS NO REASON TO

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EXAGGERATE THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH STEPS:

WITH REGARD TO TRAVEL IN PARTICULAR, SOVIETS HAVE
TENDED IN RECENT MONTHS TO LIMIT EMBASSY TRAVEL BY
INDIRECT RATHER THAN DIRECT MEANS (REFTEL B), AND WE
CAN JUDGE WHETHER REAL EASEMENT HAS TAKEN PLACE ONLY
WHEN CHANGES ARE ACTUALLY INTRODUCED. AT SAME TIME,
MULTIPLICATION OF SMALL STEPS GIVES TANGIBLE (AND QUOTABLE)
FORM TO THEIR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO FULFILL CSCE
OBLIGATIONS, AND TO THEIR UNDOUBTED DESIRE TO WHITTLE
DOWN THE TARGET WHICH THEIR "LAWS AND PRACTICES" PRESENT
FOR WESTERN CSCE BACKLASH.

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